

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 93-787-G - ORDER NO. 94-1097✓
OCTOBER 19, 1994

IN RE: Piedmont Natural Gas Company -) ORDER GRANTING
Application for Approval of an) MOTION
Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).) TO COMPEL

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion to Compel filed in this Docket on October 13, 1994, by the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate). A response was filed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont) on October 17, 1994 to the Motion.

On April 7, 1994, the Consumer Advocate sent a set of interrogatories consisting of ninety-six (96) questions to Piedmont Natural Gas Company. Piedmont objected to certain interrogatories dealing with gas supply (Interrogatory Numbers 1-38, 1-41, 1-44, and 1-49) on the ground that the information requested is not relevant to the matters at issue in the IRP proceeding at bar and is not designed illicit information which may be relevant to the matters at issue in the IRP proceeding. Piedmont further stated that substantial information about its gas supplies is available for inspection at the Commission's offices. The Consumer Advocate states that, in its opinion, that gas supply is very relevant to the IRP proceeding at bar. The Commission, under its IRP procedure, as stated in Order No. 93-412, requires natural gas

companies to provide information such as cost effectiveness of each supply site option, environmental standards applicable to each supply site option, identification of each future supply site option incorporated in the IRP, plan for gas supply and purchasing practices, supply allocation, supply reliability and other matters. The Consumer Advocate goes on to state that it is unable to fully analyze and evaluate Piedmont's Integrated Resources Plan without the information requested in these Interrogatories.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company responded to the Motion to Compel. First, Piedmont states that the Motion is inadequate and is a matter of law because the Consumer Advocate did not attach copies of the data requests to the Motion. Therefore, according to Piedmont, the record does not contain adequate information to permit the Commission to rule on the Consumer Advocate's Motion. Also, Piedmont alleges that the information sought by the Consumer Advocate has been provided to the Consumer Advocate in other proceedings and is on file with the Commission. Third, Piedmont states that it has attempted to be cooperative in providing data to the Consumer Advocate and that Piedmont has invited the Consumer Advocate and his consultants to a meeting at Piedmont's office to obtain certain relevant information. According to Piedmont, the Consumer Advocate elected not to attend the meeting. Piedmont, therefore, believes that the Motion to Compel should be denied.

The Commission has examined this matter, and believes that the Consumer Advocate's Motion to Compel should be granted, and that Piedmont should be required to answer Interrogatory Numbers 1-38, 1-41, 1-44, and 1-49. The Commission agrees that information on

the Company's gas supply is very relevant to this IRP proceeding, and that the provision of the information is consistent with the procedure set forth by the Commission in the Appendix to Order No. 93-412. Also, the Commission agrees with the Consumer Advocate that it may be unable to fully analyze and evaluate Piedmont's IRP without the information. The Commission disagrees with the reasons for possible denial of this Motion set out by Piedmont's response. First, failure to attach the data requests to the Motion to Compel does not render the Motion inadequate as a matter of law. Second, the Commission Staff has searched the files of the Commission and has not been able to locate the information as alleged is available by the company. Third, even though Piedmont may have attempted to be cooperative in providing data to the Consumer Advocate, and the Consumer Advocate elected not to attend the meeting at Piedmont's office, the Commission does not believe that this or any of the other grounds stated by Piedmont are adequate grounds to deny the Consumer Advocate's Motion to Compel. Clearly, the information sought by the Consumer Advocate is relevant to the case at bar and is necessary for the Consumer Advocate to fully analyze and evaluate Piedmont's IRP. Therefore, we believe that the Motion should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

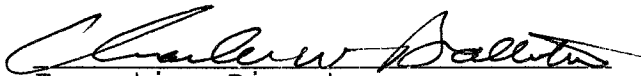
1. Piedmont shall answer Consumer Advocate Interrogatory Numbers 1-38, 1-41, 1-44, and 1-49 within ten (10) days of the date of this Order or by such other date as may be agreed upon by the Consumer Advocate and Piedmont.
2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until

further Order of this Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)